

July 1, 2003

**Public Notice for Section 401 Water Quality Certification
State Route 299 Culvert Rehabilitation/Replacement Project**

Humboldt County

On June 12, 2003, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) requesting Federal Clean Water Act, Section 401, Water Quality Certification for a culvert rehabilitation/replacement project in Humboldt County, California. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with Redwood Creek, Willow Creek, and the Trinity River in Trinity River Hydrologic Unit and Redwood Creek Hydrologic Unit.

Caltrans proposes to replace and/or repair seven culverts along State Route 299 in Humboldt County. The culverts are located at Kilometer posts (KP) 35.17, 35.63, 37.30, 37.53, 39.17, 48.86, and 68.48. Work at KP 35.17 includes the installation of a plastic liner in the cross drain and the replacement of the down drain and cable anchor assembly. At KP 35.63, they will install plastic liner in the cross drain, replace the down drain and cable assembly and place 3.6m³ rock energy dissipater at the drainage outlet. The down drain will be replaced at KP 37.30. They will replace the down drain, rebuild the slope under the pipe, and place 40m³ rock energy dissipater at the outlet of the scour hole at KP 37.53. At KP 39.17, they will remove bedload and 4.9 m from the structural steel plate pipe outlet and construct a new endwall with wingwalls to conform to the new outlet area. At KP 48.86 a standard headwall and trash rack will be installed, and the separated joint between corrugated steel pipe and structural steel plate pipe will be grouted. At KP 66.48 work will include the installation of a new cross drain and down drain.

Minimum temporary construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be employed at the project sites. BMPs will include temporary concrete washouts, rock slope protection to prevent erosion, and other standard erosion control BMPs outlined in the *Caltrans Construction BMP Manual*. Most work will occur from the roadway. All disturbed soil will be revegetated at the end of construction. In two perennial streams, Low Gap Creek and Captain Creek, water will be diverted around the project site. Work will take place during the low flow period; construction will begin in July 2004 and continue to July 2005.

The applicant is in the process of obtaining Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permits 3 and 33 and a California Department of Fish and Game Section 1601 Streambed Alteration Agreement. Caltrans, acting as the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has adopted a Negative Declaration.

Regional Water Board staff is proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341). Staff will consider any comments received during a 21-day comment period beginning on the first day of issuing this notice. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Kirsten James at (707) 576-6725, or at jamek@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov.